

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W
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P 181616Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 364

UNCLAS MADRID 3897

DEPARTMENT PASS DOT: JHERZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, PGOV, SP
SUBJECT: TRANSPORT MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 104263

1. SPAIN DOES NOT AT PRESENT HAVE A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT. TRANSPOR-
TATION FUNCTIONS ARE DISTRIBUTED GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS: HIGHWAY AND
RAILROADS-(MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS); AIR TRANSPORT (MINISTRY OF AIR);

MARITIME TRANSPORT (MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND MINISTRY OF MARINE, WITH
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PORTS IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS). VARIOUS GROUPS

HAVE URGED THAT A TRANSPORT MINISTRY BE ESTABLISHED TO CENTRALIZE THESE

FUNCTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AND AERONAUTICAL
ENGINEERS HAVE STRONGLY CALLED FOR REMOVING CIVIL AVIATION FUNCTIONS
FROM MINISTRY OF AIR (WHICH IS PRIMARILY MILITARY) AND PLACING THEM IN

TRANSPORT MINISTRY. ALSO A RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION STATED THAT NEITHER THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS OR
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE COULD SOLVE EXISTING PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF "LACK
OF JURISDICTION, SINCE EACH IS ONLY PARTIALLY CONCERNED."
FURTHER THE REPORT CALLED ON "THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT"
FACT THAT "ONLY A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT CAN PROPERLY REGULATE AND
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03897 181814Z

CONTROL ALL ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION." RUMORS ABOUND
THAT PLANS ARE BEING LAID TO ESTABLISH TRANSPORT MINISTRY, PERHAPS
AFTER JUNE ELECTIONS, BUT EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND HARD
EVIDENCE.

2. WITH ABOVE IN MIND AND HAVING LEARNED THAT JUNE ECMT MEETING
WOULD BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH SURFACE TRANSPORT, EMBOFF ON

MAY 18 CALLED ON LUIS IMEDIO SANCHEZ, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION, SUPERIOR COUNCIL FOR SURFACE TRANSPORT, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. IMEDIO STATED THAT NEW MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS LUIS ORTIZ GONZALEZ (APPOINTED MAY 11) PLANNED TO ATTEND ECMT MEETING, ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURFACE TRANSPORT JUAN ANTONIO GUITART AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF SURFACE TRANSPORT JORGE HERNANDO. IMEDIO SAID THAT THESE OFFICIALS WOULD PLAY KEY ROLE IN FUTURE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THEY WOULD RETAIN PRESENT POSITIONS AFTER JUNE 15 ELECTIONS.

3. AS TO "PRINCIPAL HOST COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM", IMEDIO SAID ONLY GENERAL OUTLINE OF PLANS COULD BE PUT TOGETHER AT THIS TIME. AS HE EXPRESSED SITUATION, "PLANS IN TRANSPORT AS IN ALL OTHER SECTORS IN SPAIN ARE IN SUSPENSE AT PRESENT." WHEN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT PLANS FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AS LAID OUT IN FEBRUARY 1977 ISSUE OF "WORLD HIGHWAYS", INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION JOURNAL, IMEDIO SAID FIGURES WERE CORRECT BUT THAT ALL DEPENDED ON BUDGET. ACCORDING TO REFERENCED REPORT, BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HIGHWAY ENRIQUE DE ALDAMO, SPAIN HAS PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 6,000 KILOMETERS OF HIGHWAYS OVER NEXT TEN YEARS, WITH WORKS ON 2,000 KILOMETERS ALREADY UNDERWAY. WITHIN THIS PLAN CONCESSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED TO PRIVATE FIRMS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2,000 KILOMETERS OF TOLL ROADS. ABOUT 700 KILOMETERS OF TOLL ROADS ARE ALREADY OPEN IN SPAIN. WITH REGARD RAILROADS, MAIN SPANISH TARGET IS ELECTRIFICATION OF BULK OF RAILWAYS OVER NEXT 5-10 YEARS. IMEDIO COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON MARITIME TRANSPORT BUT SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SPANISH SHIPPING WAS IN SAME SAD CONDITION AS MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MADRID 03897 181814Z

OF OTHER COUNTRIES' SHIPPING, WITH EFFORTS BEING MADE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANS (OECD, IMCO) TO FIND SOLUTION. STABLER

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